



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Mr. John Seitz, Director  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards – MD-10  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Subject: USEPA Mercury Determination

Dear Mr. Seitz:

I congratulate you and the agency for making a positive determination to regulate mercury emissions from coal and oil-fired power plants. I believe the United States Environmental Protection Agency's December 14, 2000, determination is appropriate and a proper step towards addressing regional transport and deposition of atmospheric mercury emissions.

Mercury emissions and their transport and deposition to water bodies is an extremely important issue for the State of Wisconsin. Currently, 341 water bodies in the state have fish consumption advisories because of mercury contamination. To address this issue at the state level, our Natural Resources Board has instructed the Department of Natural Resources to develop rules to reduce mercury emissions from major sources in the state. Our goal is to complete this rule making in 2001. I believe that we will be successful in developing rules that are effective, reasonable and technically feasible without threatening the generation of power in the state.

Wisconsin recognizes that it can not solve the problem of atmospheric mercury by itself and that there exists a regional and even national component to mercury transport and deposition. It is for this reason that Wisconsin is cooperating with USEPA on the Devil's Lake, Wisconsin, TMDL (total maximum daily load) pilot project. Since we are currently in the process of developing state regulations to control mercury emissions, I believe our efforts could be a valuable resource to USEPA. In that regard I would like to express our strong interest in working collaboratively with USEPA on the development of federal regulations to control atmospheric mercury emissions.

I appreciate your consideration of our interest. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jon Heinrich of my staff at 608-267-7547.

Sincerely,

George E. Meyer  
Secretary

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